

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 L-01 OC-01 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-01 SP-02 PM-03

SCCT-01 RSC-01 SY-02 /042 W  
----- 053043

P 161500Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2681

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0593

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ET US

SUBJ: ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE IN ASMARA OF MAAG AIRCRAFT

REF: ADDIS 0283 AND ADDIS 0480

1. DURING JANUARY 11 ENGINE CHECK ON MAAG AIRCRAFT C-54 45-594, WHICH HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY GROUNDED IN ASMARA FOR AN ENGINE CHANGE, OBSERVERS NOTICED FUEL LEAKING FROM AN ENGINE. THE ENSUING INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT ANYLON-REINFORCED RUBBER FUEL HOSE HAD BEEN CUT IN FOUR PLACES. THE CUTS WERE VERY DIFFICULT TO DETECT AND MADE IN A MANNER WHICH INDICATES THAT THE INTENT WAS TO WEAKEN THE HOSE SO THAT IT WOULD GRADUALLY FAIL UNDER PRESSURE. IF THE HOSE HAD FAILED IN FLIGHT, A MASSIVE FUEL-FED FIRE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE OCCURRED.

2. MAAG ESTIMATES THAT THE WOULD-BE SABOTEUR HAD TO HAVE HAD POSITIVE KNOWLEDGE OF C-54 AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AND THE PROBABLE RESULTS OF HIS ACTION. SINCE THE COWL OF THE SABOTAGED ENGINE WAS NOT REMOVED BY THE GROUND CREW, THE WOULD-BE SABOTEUR HAD TO REMOVE AT LEAST ONE COWL AND WOULD NEED A FLASHLIGHT TO SEE THE HOSE. THE WOULD-BE SABOTEUR, THEREFORE, MAY HAVE BEEN AN EX-C-54 MECHANIC OR EXPERIENCED ENGINE MECHANIC. OTHER THAN  
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MAAG PERSONNEL, ONLY PERSONNEL FROM ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES AND

THE ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE HAD ACCESS TO THE MAAG AIRCRAFT.

3. ON JANUARY 14 THE REPAIRED AIRCRAFT WAS FULLY CHECKED AND RETURNED TO ADDIS.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS ACTION TO DATE TAKEN AGAINST AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT IN ETHIOPIA. THE INTENT WAS OBVIOUSLY TO KILL AMERICAN PERSONNEL. IT IS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT THE ACT OF ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE WAS DONE BY A INDIVIDUAL MECHANIC ACTING FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN. IF SO, THE ACT DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF FUTURE DANGER TO AMERICANS IN ASMARA. IF, HOWEVER, THE ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE WAS THE WORK OF A GROUP, SUCH ATTEMPTS MAY BE MADE AGAIN IN THE FUTURE. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS AGAIN (REFTELS) THAT THE DEPARTMENT NOW TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE OF DEPENDENTS WHO WISH TO LEAVE ASMARA. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, IS NOT YET READY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT DEPENDENTS TO LEAVE.

WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SABOTAGE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS00593  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750017-0298  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 AUG 2003  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE IN ASMARA OF MAAG AIRCRAFT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, ET, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006